

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1400

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate First Baptist Church of Greenbrier on the occasion of the church's 125th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee are crucial elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the good people of First Baptist Church of Greenbrier comprise one such congregation, and this year they are celebrating the church's 125 years of service to the Lord and their community; and

WHEREAS, one of seven Southern Baptist churches in the Greenbrier community, this noble congregation traces its rich history to 1885, when twenty-two charter members, equipped with only a vision to impact the world for Christ and a deep and abiding faith in the Almighty, established First Baptist Church of Greenbrier and began worshipping the Lord together in spirit and in truth; and

WHEREAS, beginning with the construction of its first house of worship in 1887, the forward-thinking leaders of this flourishing congregation, with congregational input and expectant prayer, continually added to its facilities to accommodate the congregation's rapid growth, including building a new sanctuary in 1946, adding an educational building in 1954, and, in recent years, purchasing the four adjoining properties to make the church campus a full city block on prime real estate in the center of town; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, First Baptist Church of Greenbrier has embarked upon countless outreach efforts and witnessed the birth of numerous inspirational and relevant programs and ministries, and today it is pleased to serve its members and the community at large with Mother's Day Out, Daily Bread meal delivery, Dorcas Room food and clothing ministry, tutoring, GriefShare, CD sermon ministry for shut-ins, men's programs, women's programs, children's programs, and the music ministry; and

WHEREAS, sacrificing their resources to spread the Word, the members of First Baptist Church of Greenbrier have touched thousands of lives and impacted the world through their support of various local, national, and world missions, including supporting mission work in such remote locals as China, Ecuador, Burkina Faso Africa, and Haiti. This gracious and giving congregation has donated ten percent of undesignated receipts from the Cooperative Program to mission work, partnered with missionaries Phillip and Teresa Lyons who are serving in Burkina Faso, and built the First Baptist Church Greenbrier Missionary House in Africa; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church of Greenbrier has also been committed itself to extending Christ's message of love and forgiveness to its surrounding region as well, planting the mission churches of Ridgetop Baptist Church in 1959 and Light's Chapel Baptist Church in 1966; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church of Greenbrier has been blessed with spiritual leadership from numerous God-fearing pastors and, since January of 2010, has been masterfully guided by Interim Pastor Dr. Sing Oldham, a man of great integrity and character who truly has a heart for God's people; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Oldham's able direction, this remarkable congregation confidently adopted a profound vision statement: "Rooted and Grounded in Love," and an inspirational purpose statement: "To glorify God the Father as we worship him in spirit and in truth; share the gospel of Jesus Christ passionately, grow authentic disciples, serve in the name of Jesus, and love each other through Biblical fellowship;" and

WHEREAS, a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, First Baptist Church of Greenbrier is one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church of Greenbrier has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 125 years, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Greenbrier, the surrounding area, and the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 125th anniversary of First Baptist Church of Greenbrier, thank the good people of this remarkable congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.